



Almayer's Folly
Joseph Conrad

Joseph Conrad was born in former Poland, spent part of his childhood exiled in Russia because of his father's Polish nationalist political activities, learned and read French early, and did not speak a word of English until his late teens. It is perhaps not surprising, then, that when Conrad came to write this, his first novel, it centred on the pain of having a contested sense of identity, the experience of having to choose, in the midst of argument and derision, whether one was really 'this or that'. The Almayer of the story is a morose and hapless trader of Dutch extraction, settled in shambolic poverty on a river in Borneo. He dreams of finding gold inland and taking his mixed-race daughter Nina triumphantly to the Netherlands, where neither of them has ever been. Nina and her strong-willed Filipina mother, however, prove to have quite different loyalties and a quite different plan — though this plan, in turn, soon appears to come unstuck. (Summary by Peter Dann)

Read by Peter Dann. 12 Tracks. Total running time: 06:43:33

This recording is in the public domain and may be reproduced, distributed, or modified without permission. For more information or to volunteer, visit librivox.org.

Cover image: View of Kuching and River, Sarawak, Borneo (1876) by Marianne North (1830-1890). Copyright expired in U.S., Canada, EU. and all countries with author's life +70 yrs laws. Cover design by TriciaG. This design is in the public domain.